

Customer No. 24498
Attorney Docket No. PU020417 US
Office Action Date: February 4, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending and stand rejected.

Claims 1, 9, and 13 are currently amended

Reconsideration of the claim rejections is requested in view of the above claim amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 are rejected as being unpatentable over Haddock (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,248) in view of Metin (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0031142). Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 9, at the very least, are patentable and non-obvious over the combination of Haddock and Metin.

For example, with regard to claims 1 and 9, the combination of Haddock and Metin does not teach or fairly suggest, for example, a switch apparatus for providing reserved connections between end stations, wherein the switch *comprises a plurality of output queues . . . that comprise at least one additional output queue that is established and associated with reserved connection data packets for one reserved connection path at a given time*, as essentially claimed in claims 1 and 9.

For instance, although Haddock discloses a plurality of QoS queues (180) in FIG. 1B, Haddock does not teach that *the plurality of output queues comprise at least one additional output queue that is established and associated with reserved connection data packets for one reserved connection path at a given time*, as essentially claimed. Indeed, the Examiner acknowledges that Haddock neither discloses packets that include requests for reserved connections, nor switches that in response to reserved connection requests, establish reserved connection paths and allocate available bandwidth for the reserved connection path. In this

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regard, based on the Examiner's admission of the deficiencies of Haddock, it necessarily follows that Haddock does not teach a process of establishing and associating an output queue with reserved connection data packets for one reserved connection path at a given time, as essentially claimed in claims 1 and 9, for example.

Moreover, Metin does not cure the deficiencies of Haddock in the regard. Although Metin teaches a high-priority queue (10) and a low priority queue (11) (see FIG. 7), Metin specifically teaches that the high-priority queue is used for servicing frames associated with different high priority connection packets associated with multiple connection paths between hosts in different VLANs (e.g., VLAN 1 and VLAN 2). This is rather evident based on FIGs. 4, 5 and 6, wherein it is shown that packets to be transmitted from Host A to C in VLAN 1 and packets to be transmitted from Host B to Host C in VLAN 2 are stored in the same output buffer (queue) at a given time for transmission over disparate network connection paths. In this regard, Metin does not teach a process of establishing and associating an output queue with reserved connection data packets for one reserved connection path at a given time, as essentially claimed in claims 1 and 9

For at least the above reasons, the combined teachings of Haddock and Metin fail to teach or fairly suggest various features of claims 1 and 9, and thus, claims 1 and 9 are patentable over said combination. Moreover, claims 2-8 and 10-12 are patentable over the combination of Haddock and Metin at least by virtue of their dependence from claims 1 or 9. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is requested.

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Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Metin. At the very least, Metin does not disclose or suggest a method for providing a reserved connection between end stations, in a network capable of providing prioritized communications, which includes a step of, e.g., *determining, by a first network switch device, whether sufficient bandwidth is available for establishing a reserved connection path; and, if so, establishing a reserved connection path between end stations in a network and reserving resources along the reserved connection path to provide the requested reserved connection along the reserved connection path, including allocating an output queue within said first network switch device for buffering only those reserved connection data packets to be transmitted on the reserved connection path,* as essentially claimed in claim 13.

Indeed, Applicants respectfully maintain that for similar reasons presented by Applicants in the previously filed Amendment on 19 November 2007, Metin does not expressly teach *determining whether there is sufficient bandwidth available to establish a reserved connection path within the network, much less allocating an output queue within said first network switch device for buffering reserved connection data packets to be transmitted on the reserved connection path.* " . . . "

Again, Metin is clearly directed to a QoS framework where traffic is given relative precedence over other traffic in a network by using a plurality of classes of service (resource restrained class, normal class) and where traffic within VLANs associated with the resource restrained class is forwarded with high priority, while traffic within VLANs associated with the Normal class is forwarded with low priority, namely the best effort system (see, para. [0038]).

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This is much different from the claimed inventions where switches are designed to support a QoS framework for guaranteeing bandwidth through the use of a connection oriented approach, wherein connection paths are provisioned through the network and resources allocated along the path prior to traffic being forwarded on the path.

In any event, for reasons discussed above, Metin does not teach or suggest *allocating an output queue within said first network switch device for buffering only those reserved connection data packets to be transmitted on the reserved connection path*, as essentially recited in claim 13. Metin specifically teaches a high-priority queue that is used for servicing frames associated with different high priority connection packets of multiple connection paths between hosts in different VLANs (e.g., VLAN 1 and VLAN 2).

Accordingly, claim 13 is believed to be patentably distinct and patentable over Metin. Claims 14-17 are patentable over Metin, at the very least, by virtue of their dependence from claim 13. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejections is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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